

# CHRISTIAN INTELLIGENCER AND EASTERN CHRONICLE.

"WERE ONCE THESE MAXIMS FIX'D.—THAT GOD'S OUR FRIEND, VIRTUE OUR GOOD, AND HAPPINESS OUR END, HOW SOON MUST REASON O'ER THE WORLD PREVAIL, AND ERROR, FRAUD AND SUPERSTITION FAIL."

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RELIGIOUS MISCELLANY.

[From the Universal Expositor.]

The comparative amount of Evidence required by the doctrines of Endless Misery and Universal Salvation.

To produce a firm persuasion of its truth, in a reasonable mind, which requires the most unequivocal, and the greatest amount of evidence, the doctrine of endless misery, or, that of universal salvation? This is a question, to the writer, at least, of very high importance, and one, too, which he does not recollect have seen particularly discussed. It is a question, he is aware, which demands a more critical and extended examination than he has leisure, or ability, to give it; but in the hope of being in some degree useful to the readers of the Expositor, we propose to throw out a few hints upon it in the following article.

With respect to the existence of God, supernatural revelation from him, and the doctrines which it inculcates, we all walk by faith, and not by sight. These are subjects not tangible, nor capable of clear demonstration. We never saw, or heard, nor handled God, in whom we believe; and have therefore, no knowledge of him through the medium of our natural senses. We have had no personal acquaintance with the reputed authors of the books of Scripture, and do not positively know, therefore, that these books are their productions, or, that there ever were such men in existence.

Neither Moses, nor the prophets, nor the apostles, were seen, by us, when engaged in the composition of the works which are attributed to them, respectively; and of course, we have no assurance from actual observation, that the whole are not forgeries of some unknown period. We have no means of determining by the natural senses, that the peculiar doctrines culcated by revelation are not all false, and that the hopes which they awaken, are not visionary and groundless.

We have not made the tour of eternity, nor have any of us seen a map of it, of undisputed authority and accuracy; and therefore, we cannot determine, by these means, nor by any ordinary means, that an exists there at all, or, if he does, whether he is happy or miserable, or, whether his condition be changeless or unchangeable. These things, and many others, relating to this subject, we do not hesitate to acknowledge. In these cases, as in multitudes of others, of a secular character, the nature of the subjects does not admit of this sort of evidence.

But still, in conceding these points, we do not mean to admit, nor does the confession imply, that our faith in the existence of God, of a supernatural revelation, of a future, happy existence, is without competent evidence. Though we have none from actual observation, and one which is tangible, if I may so express myself, we have proof of another kind, which is as strong, as unequivocal, and as satisfactory, to our minds, and we think to every unprejudiced mind, which has made itself master of the subject, as that which we derive in ordinary cases, through the medium of the natural senses. Indeed, we have, it is believed, all the proof which the nature of the subject, or any subject of a similar character, can possibly, or at least, reasonably, admit.

But it is not my present object to go to an examination of the evidences of the divine existence, of the inspiration and truth of the scriptures, nor of the doctrines which they teach; in other words, it is not the design of this article to prove that there is a God, that the Bible is a revelation from him, nor that man will exist, either happy or miserable, in a state after the present. As all Christians are agreed on these points, I assume them as in this discussion.

My inquiries will relate to the amount of evidence necessary to produce, in a reasonable mind, a firm belief in one, or the other, of two doctrines, which the believers in its inspiration and truth, suppose the Bible to teach. I allude to the doctrine of endless misery, and that of universal salvation. The latter of these, I only believe to be the truth of God plainly revealed in the scriptures. The greater, however, of the Christian world believe, or, profess to believe, the former. Now for the sake of illustration, let us peruse these opposite systems of faith to and as hypotheses. Neither of them, we have seen, is susceptible of proof through the medium of the natural senses. They rest, respectively, on evidence cogizable by a different tribunal—by the reason and understanding of man, and by these only.

This tribunal, however, it should be remembered, has not the power, neither is its province, to create the truth of either of these doctrines, nor the evidences by which it is supported; but to decide upon their admissibility and competence.

The truth of any system, or, of any part of a system of faith, and the evidence, or lack of evidence, for its support, are subjects entirely extraneous to the powers of the human mind, and exist wholly independent of them. It is the office of these

powers to examine the evidence adduced for the support of any controverted proposition; to judge of its applicability, and then, to determine whether it be of such a kind, and of such an amount, as to remove all reasonable doubts from the mind. If such be the result, the proposition is proved, and as indisputably proved, so far as the convictions of the mind are concerned, as it could be were it susceptible of a mathematical demonstration. We should be as effectually secured against the influence of suspense, or indecision, in the one case as in the other.

Now with respect to the doctrines of interminable misery and universal salvation, the evidence, at least, the main evidence, that without which all other kinds would be utterly inapplicable and incompetent, must be furnished, if furnished at all, by a supernatural revelation from God. The volume of nature, and the book of human reason, afford no indubitable and decisive proofs of the one or the other. They may, and unquestionably do, exhibit many indications of a very encouraging character; they may awaken many animating, and some very sanguine hopes; but they can decide nothing. They are splendid and masterly productions, and furnish much important information on a vast variety of topics; but they have no chapter particularly devoted to the illustration of man's eternal happiness, or misery. By the necessity of the case then, we are driven to the law and the testimony of Heaven. By these, the deficiency must be supplied, if supplied at all. It can be derived from no other source.

Let us suppose, then, that the Bible is a revelation from God; that it contains a disclosure of his will and purposes respecting the final destination of man; and that he designed, in giving it, to furnish us with such evidence of the doctrine of endless misery of some men, or, of the endless happiness of all, as the nature of the cases, respectively, demanded; to which of these doctrines, should we naturally suppose he would attach the greater amount, and the more direct and unequivocal kind of evidence? Is it not a most obvious fact that the less probable doctrine demands the greater amount of evidence, and the more probable, the less amount? Which then, let me ask, appears to be, under the divine government, the more probable, the truth of endless misery, or, of universal salvation? Which of these doctrines is the more in accordance with our natural convictions of the intentions and dealings of the almighty and all-merciful Being who made us, and who has hitherto protected and blessed us?

He is our Father, and the father and friend of all mankind. In nature and providence, at least, he is "good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works." He opened the fountains from which numberless streams of security and comfort flow around us and within us. Is it probable, then, that when all these shall cease to flow in death, he will open others of unmixed and unending anguish and woe? Is it not more probable, from all we know of God, that when the fountains of time dry up, he will open for us as good, or better ones in eternity? These are questions of high importance. They involve a point of doctrine on which, it is believed, Christians of all communions are much in the habit of erring. It is an obvious fact, though rarely permitted to have its just influence in discussions of this sort, that if two things are affirmed of God, or of any other being, one of which exactly corresponds with his general character, and the uniform tenor of his conduct, and the other decidedly opposes them, and all we have ever seen or known of him, it necessarily requires a much greater amount of evidence to produce a belief in the latter than of the former. Ordinary proof, and the usual quantity, are sufficient in the one case, but they are obviously insufficient in the other.

Now, is not the doctrine of endless holiness and happiness much more consistent with the acknowledged nature and will of God, and with all we have seen or known of him in his works, than that of endless sin and misery? And are not the final holiness and happiness of all men, much more consistent with our natural convictions of the nature and will, and works, of the great and good God, than the endless sin and misery of the greater part, or, even of one? Nothing presents itself to my mind with greater claims to certainty.

It is admitted on all hands, that all the perfections of God are properly infinite. His wisdom and power and goodness, are without beginning, without limits, and without end. They are inherent properties of his nature, and will remain such, without the least abatement or variation, through interminable ages. Now with this view of God, a proposition which attributes weakness to him, must require a far greater amount of evidence to produce belief in it, than one which ascribes to him the natural effects of omnipotence. The one is natural, the other unnatural. The one is probable, the other improbable, and obviously impossible.

So of his wisdom and goodness; if a proposition, or a doctrine, ascribe to him acts which are plainly foolish and malevolent, it must require very extraordinary

proof indeed to make a reasonable mind believe it. A much less amount of evidence would produce, in the same mind, a firm faith in deeds which were the natural results of wisdom and benevolence. Now as God is almighty and infinitely wise, he can make all men holy and happy if he will; and, as he is infinitely good, he must, from his own nature, it would seem, be disposed to do it.

From the foregoing remarks, it follows, inevitably, that the doctrine of endless misery requires for its support a much greater amount of evidence, and evidence too, of a much more extraordinary character, than that of universal salvation, because the former is contrary to our natural convictions of the divine perfections, and the latter in perfect accordance with them. This is a point of great consequence, and ought to be closely examined, and well understood. It is usually viewed in quite a different, and, therefore, erroneous light.

The heresy of eternal damnation has been so long, and so generally prevalent, that the burden of proof has, by common consent, been thrown on the other side of the question. The doctrine of endless misery is everywhere assumed as the truth, and the advocate of universal salvation is called upon to marshal an enormous amount of plain, unequivocal proof, or, give up his faith. Now by the foregoing discussion it has been shown clearly, and I think conclusively, that this course is wrong,—that it reverses the natural order of things. It violates a rule, the correctness of which is as obvious as the sun at noon day, and, which is uniformly followed in all other cases, viz. that the more

probable side of a proposition should be assumed as true, till the other is indubitably proved. According to this obvious and universal rule, the doctrine of universal salvation ought to be taken for granted, until that of endless misery is shown to be true by an overwhelming amount of the most explicit and irrefragable testimony.

But this has never been done, and never will be done. The great amount of clear and explicit evidence is found, on examination, to be on the side of universal salvation; while the opposite doctrine, which demands a much greater, is found, on inquiry, to have much less amount, and that drawn from different and parabolical passages, which, by the fairest rules of construction and interpretation, have been shown to afford it no support at all.

The view I have taken of this subject, will be strengthened and confirmed by a reference to some cases by way of illustration. The history of Napoleon Bonaparte is before the world. The astonishing powers of his mind, especially as a warrior, and the splendor of his military achievements, are acknowledged by all nations. His martial exploits are familiar to our children. Now should a historian rise up and affirm that Napoleon was weak and cowardly; that he had no knowledge of military tactics, and no ambition to know them; that he was frequently repelled and routed by a handful of raw troops, when at the head of a numerous and well-disciplined army—it would require very extraordinary, and a very uncommon amount of evidence, to make us believe him, because his assertions would be in direct opposition to the known character and career of the man.

We are acquainted with the character of Howard the Philanthropist. He immortalized his name by deeds of benevolence. His life and his fortune were spent in prisons and dungeons, in unwearied efforts to meliorate the condition of their unfortunate inmates. Now, what kind, and what sum, of evidence would be sufficient to produce a firm belief, in a reasonable mind, acquainted with his history that Howard all along cherished a secret determination to rivet more firmly the chains, and to augment the sufferings, of a majority of those he visited?

But a little time since, the story of a glorious revolution in France reached us. It told us that the illustrious Lafayette instantly ranged himself with the champions of liberty and the rights of man, and we readily believed the account. It was precisely what we should have expected, in such a crisis, from the prince of patriots and of civil freedom in the old world. But what evidence, kind readers, would have been sufficient to have produced an undoubted belief of an opposite account of him?

Now, is not the doctrine of endless holiness and happiness much more consistent with the acknowledged nature and will of God, and with all we have seen or known of him in his works, than that of endless sin and misery? And are not the final holiness and happiness of all men, much more consistent with our natural convictions of the nature and will, and works, of the great and good God, than the endless sin and misery of the greater part, or, even of one? Nothing presents itself to my mind with greater claims to certainty.

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The one is natural, the other unnatural. The one is probable, the other improbable, and obviously impossible.

So of his wisdom and goodness;

that of believing that endless misery will be inflicted, or, permitted, by that God who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth; and, who doeth according to his own will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth." S. S.

[From the Herald of Truth.]

A Report of the Debates in the Presbytery of Philadelphia, at a special meeting, held in the city of Philadelphia, on the 30th of November, and continued on the 1st and 2nd of December, 1830—80 p. 8vo.

We have read this report with attention, and propose to give our readers some account of it. The object of the special meeting of the Presbytery will be best explained by the introductory minute, and the resolutions which follow it.

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1830. This day, at 10 o'clock A. M., Presbytery of Philadelphia met in the Session Room of the Second Presbyterian Church, a special meeting having been called by the Moderator, for the purpose of taking up and issuing the business specified in the following resolutions, adopted by the Synod of Philadelphia, at their session in Lancaster, Oct. 30, 1830, viz.

1. Resolved. That the Presbytery of Philadelphia, in not allowing the examination of Mr. Barnes, in connexion with his printed sermon, previously to his reception as a member of the Presbytery, and especially before his installation as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, gave just ground of complaint to the minority.

2. Resolved. That the complainants be referred back to the Presbytery of which they are members, with an injunction to that Presbytery to hear and decide on their objections to the orthodoxy of the sermon of Mr. Barnes, and to take such order on the whole subject, as is required by regard to the purity of the church, and its acknowledged doctrines and order.

The business was introduced by the Rev. Dr. Green, who presented a long minute in the form of a resolution, containing objections to the orthodoxy of the sermon; and moved that it be adopted as expressive of the sense of the Presbytery thereon.

The debate which ensued, and the motions and counter motions which were offered, prove that the Presbytery was divided into two opposing parties. The fact is admitted by many of the speakers.

One part, a very respectable minority, were strenuously opposed to the proceedings against their brother clergyman, proposed by Dr. Green. The other as warmly advocated them.

Dr. Ely moved to postpone the consideration of the minute offered by Dr. Green that Presbytery may call upon the stated clerk for the charges against Mr. Barnes, which he was required to produce at the last meeting of the Presbytery.

Dr. Green opposed this motion, on the ground that the Moderator of the former meeting had decided it to be out of order to take up the paper containing the charges; and that therefore the paper was not the property of the Presbytery.

After some hours spent in debating upon this motion, it was decided to be out of order. The motion of Dr. Green again recurred.

Dr. Ely moved to postpone, in order to take up the following Resolution, viz:—That this Presbytery cannot constitutionally and judicially hear objections against the orthodoxy of any sermon, preached and published by Mr. Barnes, until some persons appear as his accusers, or until the Presbytery shall judge that common fame requires him to be arraigned for heresy. If the Synod had ordered us to proceed unconstitutionally, we should not be bound to obey. I believe it is unconstitutional to move in any proceeding, unless in the usual form of process, and, therefore, I make this motion.

This motion was decided in the negative, by a vote of 22 against 26, which exhibits the relative strength of the parties. A similar motion was again made to postpone the consideration of Dr. Green's minute, as appears from the following extract.

Dr. Ely moved to postpone, in order to take up the following Resolution: That this Presbytery cannot entertain and act upon the paper introduced by Dr. Green, because it is virtually an indictment of Mr. Barnes for heresy, until some persons appear as accusers.

Mr. McCalla. I see there is a crusade to be brought against us—let us meet it.

"Mr. —. Are we to be dogged in this way, without end?"

Dr. Ely. I think it my duty to oppose the measure attempted, as being unconstitutional, unscriptural, and unchristian. This motion is not the same as the former. If it is come to this issue, that Presbytery will try Mr. Barnes in an unconstitutional manner, I must wash my hands of it; and nothing that Mr. McCalla will say shall hinder me. I confess, a hard look from Dr. Green does go through my heart, but Mr. McCalla may say what he pleases—I care not for his speeches, and shall not reply to them."

Mr. Engles. I believe it to be the right of every member to act according to his best judgment—but Presbytery ought not to be subjected to this kind of proceeding.

Dr. Ely has surely ingenuity enough to vary his motions. If such practices are countenanced, the same motion, in a new form, may be presented fifty or a hundred times. It is an insult to Presbytery so to repeat motions."

Dr. Slusher. I am sorry to stand charged with an intention to insult this judicatory. Nothing can be farther from our intentions. We believe conscientiously, that we are on constitutional ground, and ought to resist this proceeding. If we are wrong, let us be convinced of our error before we are taxed with intentional insolence. I believe we are right. The constitution prescribes a way of acting in these cases, and the General Assembly has confirmed our opinion."

Dr. M'Auley. We had better all be free and open in stating our views. I never saw any good arise from reserve, or hindering the expression of sentiments.—Free discussion is like the safety valve in a steam boat, which relieves from too great pressure, and prevents a collapse. Surely, there is not such party spirit here, that we cannot reason on each other's arguments without indulging in personalities. For myself I will not be of a party. I am afflicted that this Presbytery takes the course it does. The Synod refers to us a certain business, and upon our coming together to consider it, Dr. Green introduces a paper, containing objections to this sermon, and contemplating the infliction of a heavy discipline, if the discourse should be condemned. No man has a right to bring here a system, so to speak, cut and dried. It was reasonable to expect that we should meet here, and exchange ideas, on the course to be pursued. Because Dr. Green produced this paper, it is urged, an opinion must be taken on it; and it is insisted that nothing else is in order. The practice of the General Assembly should be our guide, and is not such. Presbytery resolved to hear this paper read, but did not determine that this course must be pursued in the business. Why must we act on this? It is really a set of chitlings. Shall we be forced to adopt this manner of proceeding? There was no resolution as to how we must take up Mr. Barnes' sermons. I wish to act on the matter not as if pre-determined.—But now you have disfranchised Mr. Barnes; and your decision that he cannot vote, is a decision that he is at your bar for trial."

Mr. Green. The gentleman disclaims an intention to make personal reflections, but I am implicated by his remarks."

Mr. McCalla. It must be plain to every body, that it has been decided to put the complainants out of the house; that it is the design of the other side to make a crusade against us. This is the intention of all these long speeches. Dr. M'Auley spoke until he could hardly bring one word after another. He said there was no profit in arising, from hindering members from speaking—and he said he did not want to stop members from speaking; but he stopped Dr. Green. When Dr. M'Auley was in a majority, he thought it was very right to limit speeches. We remember the history of 1826. [Mr. Biggs called to order.]—Why didn't you call Dr. M'Auley to order? One M'Auley's as good as another, whether he has the title of doctor to his name or not.

Dr. M'Auley, when he was in the majority, talked of 'modest men' with a sneer. Now, he is against parties. We are all republicans, all federalists; and then our party is suppressed, and his has all in its hands. Against the opinion of Synod, he insists we have no right to examine this sermon. Their resolution sent to the members states the right. Yet Dr. Green has no right to propose to Presbytery. No: Presbyters must mark out their own course. Now, who are the Presbytery? They must act by individuals. But all must come from Dr. M'Auley or his friends; else it is unconstitutional. And this is liberty! Ali is right on one side, all oppression on the other! We have not prevented speaking; we want liberty too, and never tried to repress Dr. M'Auley; we only want an equal right to debate the question submitted to us. Though Dr. Green is old and feeble, he is not to be kicked out of the house. The upshot of Dr. M'Auley's speech, is that Dr. Green had no right to make a motion. The ten men in the Philadelphian thought that it was not regular even for an individual to review the sermon. Dr. M'Auley says the same of the Synod. Why irregular? Because Dr. M'Auley says so. He has chosen, however, to change his former opinion. Before, we were refused the right to prefer formal charges; and then Dr. M'Auley said, that if Mr. Barnes were a member of this Presbytery we would have the right."

Dr. M'Auley. It is false. I never did, sir."

## CHRISTIAN INTELLIGENCER.

day must be repeated: Are these men christians? Unless argument take the place of animadversion on individuals, our debates can be productive of no good.

"I am of no party. I am here to judge of the question presented, according to my conscience; and I cannot approve of the course proposed to be adopted."

"I have heard allusions to public sentiment, expressed as to our conduct. We have nothing to do with opinions out of doors, and ought not to be influenced by them. But if public opinion were our proper guide, it has long since pronounced such course as this illegal. The advocates of this measure rank me as a friend of Mr. Barnes. I am not his friend, right or wrong, but free to give a just vote. I hope we are not to be divided into *squads*. This is no place to contend for victory—but to do justice. Every man accused has a right to know his accuser; this is a maxim in courts of justice, and the rule ought to hold in an ecclesiastical judiciary. There ought to be a responsible accuser. I speak to the point of order only. We can consistently take the course I propose."

Mr. Latta. I was not present at the former meetings of Presbytery, and know what took place at them, only from what I have read. I had no prejudice against Mr. Barnes, and my attention to his sermon was first attracted by a reviewer in the *Philadelphia*. At the time of the stated meeting of Presbytery, I lay on the bed of pain, and was in a situation to weigh the importance of the doctrines of our faith, not expecting to rise from that bed. It was then I saw this sermon, and, when I read it, I thought I saw a blow aimed at the precious doctrines of atonement and justification by faith."

Mr. Barnes. Such language is calculated to make an impression on the minds of Presbytery unfavorable to a fair judgment respecting my case, and I cannot therefore hear it in silence."

Mr. McCalla. Shall not Mr. Latta be allowed to speak? Dr. M'Auley was not interrupted."

Mr. Latta. When I saw that it was said in this sermon, that Christ did not bear the penalty of the law, I was rejoiced to find some of my brethren had come forward to prevent the entry of error into the mother Presbytery of our Church. What improper motive could they expect to have imputed to them? Could any man impugn the motives of the venerable leader of this prosecution? Error is making inroads into the Presbyterian Church.

"I have long been intimately acquainted with the late pastor of the First Church, and I have heard it reported that he defends all the doctrines of this sermon. I will prove to you he would not. Would Dr. Wilson say that there was a compromise between justice and mercy? I regret that Dr. Wilson's name has been introduced. His son is now sitting in glory, and will soon beam in other climes."

Mr. Barnes. As the question is one of order, I will say a few words upon it. It seems expected that I am to offer some remarks, and I do so now with a view to conciliate. I have never come to this Presbytery, without praying that I might be guided in my conduct here. Whatever be my views of the doctrine of atonement, I trust I have seen the beauty of the scheme of man's salvation, and of the religion we profess."

Mr. Bacon. I am anxious for pursuing the object, but will be strenuous for doing it lawfully. We are unwilling to proceed in an unlawful way. I was glad to hear it admitted, that the sermon is connected with Mr. Barnes, and that, every thing in relation to it, affects him. Dr. Green's motion presents Mr. Barnes as accused, but not in the proper form. All the proceeding yesterday was irregular; we ought to begin where the business was left."

"Mr. —— Where was it left?"

"Mr. Bacon. I ask that the minute respecting it may be read."

"Mr. McCalla. Moderator, I'll tell him where it was left. It was left in the lurch."

Dec. 1. Afternoon

Mr. Patterson. I join in protesting against trying this sermon alone. If the Presbytery of Philadelphia must be divided, let it be done. Some years ago, Synod was petitioned on this subject. We have had much wrangling and quarreling; and, it is very well known that the difference is not so much about purity of doctrine, as purity of opinion. Members of this Presbytery have long been at variance on some points, but have been obliged to bear and forbear. For four or five meetings of the General Assembly, their aim has been to steer a middle course, not an exclusive one. In all Protestant Churches we find a high and a low church party. Four or five General Assemblies have endeavored to keep together, and not become exclusivists. If it must be so, let us divide, but in peace. Perhaps it would be more for the peace and good of the church. I am in favor of Dr. Ely's motion."

"Moderator. Is Presbytery ready for the question?"

The question was taken and decided in the negative. 21 to 27.

"Dr. Ely said he would enter a protest."

"Mr. Engle moved to postpone the motion before the house, in order to take up a resolution which he offered, viz. that the Presbytery do proceed to hear the objections which may be urged against the sermon of Mr. Barnes, agreeably to the decision of Synod, making the minute referred by Dr. Green the basis upon which the proceedings shall be conducted."

"Dr. Skinner said, he wished to offer a motion to postpone on another ground."

"Mr. McCalla. I mentioned a parliamentary principle: if a motion be agreeable to the majority, it must be put forward in the first place. A motion for postponement lost, precludes another motion for postponement. Otherwise the majority might be kept a year from a decision."

Dr. Skinner. I doubt if the brother is correct. To move a postponement on the same ground, is out of order. I move it on a different ground."

"Moderator. The house has decided on two motions to postpone, that they were out of order."

Dr. Ely. I am opposed to this postponement, because, the complainants, (so called) always have been accusers. To clear my skirts, I protest, and beg leave to read a paper showing my reasons."

Dr. Green. I object to it, as out of order."

Dr. Ely. Then I move to postpone the motion to postpone."

Mr. McCalla. I am astonished, truly astonished at Dr. Ely's motion. To postpone a motion to postpone! It is contrary to Jefferson's Manual."

Dr. Ely. I will not sit and judge Mr. Barnes on an abstract question."

Mr. McCalla. It is altogether unparliamentary. Dr. Ely has put his own head into a bag this time. I move that Dr. Ely be indulged in reading his protest."

Dr. Ely. I return thanks for the indulgence, to do what every man has a right to do."

Many more extracts of a similar character with those already given, might be made from the pamphlet before us.

THE INTELLIGENCER.

"And Truth diffuse her radiance from the Press."

GARDINER, FRIDAY, JUNE 3.

HYMNOLOGY.

A writer in the *Philadelphia* of last week—a paper "elected," as is stated in large capitals in the imprint, "by the Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, D. D."—has some sensible strictures on the hymns, so called, used for devotional purposes; the substance of which we designed to lay before our readers. The paper containing them, however, is mislaid, and we must at present content ourselves with a few original comments on the subject.

It long ago occurred to us, that a large proportion of the "hymns," contained in the different hymn books used for public and private devotion, are not "hymns," and ought no more to be sung by the choir than the prayers, exhortations, warnings, threatenings, &c. of the preacher. The putting of a sentence into rhyme and metre gives it no claim to the nature of a hymn. A hymn is an "encomiastic song, or song of adoration and praise." It has God for its object and is an expression of thankfulness for blessings received or promised. But how few of what are called hymns, are addresses to God, or contain sentiments of exultation in his goodness! Many of them are mere conversations between men; others, arguments, exhortations, expostulations, threatenings and the like. These are suitable to be said, but there is little harmony and still less propriety in singing them. The "sons of God sing for joy," not for grief; the Angels of heaven raise the anthem of "glory to God in the highest, for peace on earth and good will towards man," not for the misery, temporal or eternal, of mankind. It is always coupling us to rather curiously, not to say ridiculous, for a minister to rise in the desk, and after saying, "let us sing to the praise of God, in the use of the second hymn, second book, common metre," begin to read as follows:

"My thoughts on awful subjects roll,  
Damnation and the dead;  
What horrors seize a guilty soul  
Upon a dying bed!" &c.

A pretty "hymn" of praise to God!—a noble sentiment to induce the exultation and joy of a singing choir, and the worshipping assembly generally!

"Ye sons of Adam, vain and young,  
Indulge your eyes, indulge your tongue," &c.

What is this? Is it an address to God? Is it praise? No, it is an address to the "sons of Adam,"—which may be very well in a Sermon, but which the poetry that it is dressed in, gives it no claim to the name of hymn, nor does it make it suitable to be sung.

"Life is the time to serve the Lord," &c.

This is the commencement of an argument directed to men.

"How full of anguish is the thought,  
How it distracts and tears my heart," &c.

A person full of anguish, with a distressed heart, may cry this sentiment, but there would be no more propriety in singing it, than there would be in laughing.

The following is an exhortation,

"Now in the heat of youthful blood,  
Remember your Creator, God."

Preface the reading of this "hymn" by "Let us praise God by singing," must strike every mind as inconsistent somewhere.

Indeed, let any one cast his eye over any of the hymn books in common use, and he will be surprised to notice how few of the whole number comparatively are truly hymns of praise. The sentiment may, indeed, be excellent, and very suitable to be advanced in a Sermon, but in the act of adoration and praise, they legitimately have no place. We should like to see a book of hymns. The time, we think, will come when the books now and heretofore in use, will excite in posterity a smile on account of the bad taste or ignorance of their ancestors.

ANOTHER TRACT FALSEHOOD.

It is small game, we very well know, to search out and expose the falsehood of orthodox tracts—a business, however, which, if performed according to the number and extent of such falsehoods, would be a very considerable task. Humiliating as the duty is, nevertheless, we believe it to be a duty of those who serve the public, to expose at least some of the falsehoods which are scattered like the seeds of the thistle, on the whirlwind of orthodoxy, into every section of the country and over the premises of almost every honest and peaceable man in community. Under such convictions of duty, we exposed the palpable falsehood of the "Honest Waterman"; and thought in so doing, we may have incurred the *pious* hatred of some, whose craft we thereby endangered, the consciousness of having put the public on its guard against a "system" which is introduced with fair promises, and pledges of anti-sectarianism more than counterbalances the regret occasioned by the former.

"Dr. Skinner said, he wished to offer a motion to postpone on another ground."

"Mr. Engle moved to postpone the motion before the house, in order to take up a resolution which he offered, viz. that the Presbytery do proceed to hear the objections which may be urged against the sermon of Mr. Barnes, agreeably to the decision of Synod, making the minute referred by Dr. Green the basis upon which the proceedings shall be conducted."

"Dr. Skinner said, he wished to offer a motion to postpone on another ground."

"Mr. McCalla. I mentioned a parliamentary principle: if a motion be agreeable to the majority, it must be put forward in the first place. A motion for postponement lost, precludes another motion for postponement. Otherwise the majority might be kept a year from a decision."

"I have heard allusions to public sentiment, expressed as to our conduct. We have nothing to do with opinions out of doors, and ought not to be influenced by them. But if public opinion were our proper guide, it has long since pronounced such course as this illegal. The advocates of this measure rank me as a friend of Mr. Barnes. I am not his friend, right or wrong, but free to give a just vote. I hope we are not to be divided into *squads*. This is no place to contend for victory—but to do justice. Every man accused has a right to know his accuser; this is a maxim in courts of justice, and the rule ought to hold in an ecclesiastical judiciary. There ought to be a responsible accuser. I speak to the point of order only. We can consistently take the course I propose."

"Mr. Latta. I was not present at the former meetings of Presbytery, and know what took place at them, only from what I have read. I had no prejudice against Mr. Barnes, and my attention to his sermon was first attracted by a reviewer in the *Philadelphia*. At the time of the stated meeting of Presbytery, I lay on the bed of pain, and was in a situation to weigh the importance of the doctrines of our faith, not expecting to rise from that bed. It was then I saw this sermon, and, when I read it, I thought I saw a blow aimed at the precious doctrines of atonement and justification by faith."

"Mr. Barnes. Such language is calculated to make an impression on the minds of Presbytery unfavorable to a fair judgment respecting my case, and I cannot therefore hear it in silence."

"Mr. McCalla. Shall not Mr. Latta be allowed to speak? Dr. M'Auley was not interrupted."

"Mr. Latta. I am in favor of Dr. Ely's motion."

"Moderator. Is Presbytery ready for the question?"

The question was taken and decided in the negative. 21 to 27.

"Dr. Ely said he would enter a protest."

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## MISCELLANY.

## THE WIFE.

"I have been with thee in thy hour  
Of glory and of bliss,—  
Doubt not its memory's living power  
To strengthen me, through this!"

Mrs. Hemans.

She was a beautiful girl, when I first saw her. She was standing up at the side of her lover at the marriage altar. She was slightly pale—yet ever and anon, as the ceremony proceeded, a faint tinge of crimson, crossed her beautiful cheek, like the reflection of a sunset cloud upon the clear waters of a quiet lake. Her lover, as he clasped her delicate hand within his own, gazed on her for a moment with unmixed admiration, and the warm and eloquent blood played upon his cheek, shadowing at intervals his manly forehead and "melting into beauty on his lip."

"He stood in the pride of his youth—a fair form With his feelings yet noble, his spirit yet warm—  
An Eagle to shelter the dove with his wing,  
An elm where the light twining tendrils might cling."

And they gave themselves to one another, in the presence of Heaven; and every heart blessed them as they went their way rejoicing in their love.

Years passed on, and again I saw those lovers. They were seated together where the light of a summer sunset stole through the half closed and crimson curtains, tending a richer tint to the delicate carpeting, and the exquisite embellishments of the rich and gorgeous apartment. Time had slightly changed them in outward appearance. The girlish buoyancy of the young wife had indeed given place to the grace of perfected womanhood, and her lip was somewhat paler, and a faint line of care was slightly perceptible upon her beautiful brow. Her husband's brow was marked somewhat more deeply than his years might warrant—anxiety, ambition, and pride had gone over it, and left their traces upon it,—a silver hue was mingling with the darkness of his hair, which had become thinned around his temples almost to baldness. He was reclining on the splendid ottoman with his face half hidden by his hand, as if he feared that the deep and troubled thoughts which oppressed him were visible upon his features.

"Edward, you are ill to night!"—said his wife in a low, sweet and half enquiring voice, as she laid her hand upon his own.

The husband roused himself from his attitude slowly, and a slight frown knit his brow. "I am not ill," he said somewhat abruptly, and he folded his arms upon his bosom, as if he wished no interruption of his evidently bitter thoughts.

Indifference from those we love is terrible to the sensitive bosom. It is as if the sun of heaven refused his wonted cheerfulness, and glared down upon us with a cold, dim, and forbidding glance. It is dreadful to feel that the only being of our love refuses to ask our sympathy—that he broods over feelings which he scorns, or fears to reveal,—dreadful to watch the convulsing feature and the gloomy brow—the indefinable shadows of hidden emotion—the involuntary signs of a sorrow in which we are forbidden to participate, and whose character we cannot know.

The wife essayed once more. "Edward," she said slowly, mildly and affectionately, "the time has been when you were willing to confide your secret joys and sorrows to one, who has never, I trust, betrayed your confidence. Why then, my dear Edward, is this cruel reserve?—You are troubled, and yet you refuse to tell me the cause."

Something of returning tenderness softened for an instant the cold severity of the husband's features, but it passed away and a bitter smile was his only reply.

Time passed on, and the twain were separated from each other. The husband sat gloomily and alone in the damp cell of a dungeon. He had followed Ambition as his God, and had failed in his high career. He had mingled with men whom his heart loathed, he had sought out the fierce and wronged spirits of his land, and had breathed into them the madness of revenge. He had drawn his sword against his country; he had fanned rebellion to a flame, which had been quenched in human blood. He had fallen—miserably fallen—and he had been doomed to die the death of a traitor.

It was his last night of life. The morning was the day appointed for his execution. He saw the sun sink behind the green hills of the West, as he sat by the dim grate of his dungeon, with a feeling of utterable horror. He felt that it was the last sun that would set to him. It would cast its next level and sunset rays upon his grave—upon the grave of a dismally traitor!

The door of his dungeon opened, and a light form entered and threw herself into his arms. The softened light of sunset fell upon the pale brow and wasted cheek of his once beautiful wife.

"Edward—my dear Edward," she said, "I have come to save you. I have reached you, after a thousand difficulties, and I thank God that my purpose is nearly accomplished."

His spouse had softened the proud heart of manhood, and as the husband pressed his pale wife to his bosom, a tear trembled on his eye lash. "I have not deserved this kindness," he murmured in the choking tones of convulsive agony.

"Edward," said his wife in an earnest, but quiet and low voice, which indicated a strong and fearful debility, "we have not much time to lose. By an exchange of persons you will be enabled to pass out unscathed. Haste, or we may be too late. To annihilate it entirely requires only the aid of an honest and enlightened mind competent to pronounce upon the singular position of America; a

"you look sadly ill. You cannot breathe the air of this dreadful cell."

"Oh, speak not of me, my dearest Edward," said the devoted woman. "I can endure every thing for your sake. Haste, Edward—haste, and all will be well,"—and she aided with a trembling hand to disguise the proud form of her husband in a female garb.

"Farewell my love, my preserver—" whispered the husband in the ear of his disguised wife, as the officer sternly reminded the supposed lady that the time allotted for her visit had expired. "Farewell—we shall meet again," responded his wife—and the husband passed out unsuspected, and escaped the enemies of his life.

They did meet again—that wife and husband—but only as the dead may meet—in the awful communings of another world. Affection had borne up her exhausted spirit, until the last great purpose of her exertions was accomplished in the safety of her husband; and when the bell tolled on the morrow and the prisoner's cell was opened, the guards found wrapped in the habiliments of their destined victim the pale but still beautiful corpse of the devoted wife.—N. E. W. Review.

## Great Britain and the United States.—

Mr. Campbell, the talented editor heretofore of the London New Monthly Magazine, having withdrawn from that establishment, has commenced the publication of a new monthly periodical called "The Englishman's Magazine." It is said this Magazine is intended to be a sort of official organ of the sentiments of the new Whig Ministry, as the Quarterly Review has been of the former Cabinets. The Englishman's Magazine commences with a very respectful, dignified and conciliatory tone towards the United States. It contends that the great body of the people of England regard us with the greatest respect and brotherly kindness, and condemns with severity the few who have cast their sneers and sarcasms upon us. To show a little of the spirit of this new publication towards the literature and policies of the United States, we make the following brief extracts:—*Daily Courier*

"It was a gross libel on our countrymen to charge them with hoarding vindictive remembrance towards the States, or with entertaining the desire of aggrandizement at their expense. Many were far from hostile to the celebrated Declaration of Independence; they considered it the fitting alternative of injured men. The recollection of New Orleans distracts not our slumbers; if we ever think of the day of battle, it is with sorrow that such days should have occurred. As to territorial aggression, we should be more likely to meditate the transference of the Canadas to our neighbors, than to plan the occupation of New Hampshire. The corruptors of war and intrigue may thirst after contention; our prayer is for peace, and for the fruits of peace—a liberal exchange of the blessings of the earth and the products of mental and manual ingenuity.

"We love the land of our nativity, but we should cease to love it, if our attachment were incompatible with a generous regard for the common interests of man kind. Our understandings are untrammelled by the civil policy of princes and their advisers, although institutions warped from their original purpose, may have placed public officers beyond public control, and given to the few the power of misrepresenting the many. The resources of Great Britain are unparalleled: crippled as she has been by misgovernment, she still reigns without an equal. The dreadful scourge of war came to her in the seductive guise of victory and conquest. She extended her boundaries, and opened new avenues to wealth. But her proudest and least perishable monument raises its head above the waves of the West; where the industry, intelligence and hardihood of her descendants, have given them a political and moral rank, equal to that of the parent country, compared with the kingdoms of Europe. In numbers, those who speak the English tongue considerably exceed the Spaniards; in all that ennobles humanity, they are immeasurably superior to them, and to every other race on the Continent of Columbus.—In about half a century, amidst the fluctuations of a sanguinary and protracted war which raged over the whole earth, a newly organized confederacy of thinly peopled provinces, became consolidated into a mighty empire, respected abroad, and peaceful and flourishing in its internal relations. If the future may be argued from the past, we are warranted in the prediction, that a second series of the History of British grandeur will be supplied by North America.

Many and magnificent are the problems in progress of solution among the sons of the Union. A thousand opposite elements have been mingled and melted in the crucibles of a Republican constitution, to produce the pure gold of order and equal rights. No similar experiment was ever so successful. There has been conspiracy among our task masters to keep us in ignorance of its happy results. They would have us raise the hand of violence against our brother, that they and theirs may walk in "purple and fine linen."—Mammon has a host of worshippers here, and the slang of an oligarchy prompts them to contemn institutions which lack "the pomp and circumstance" of courtly parade. This delusion however, is common with a troop of like delusions, is passing away. To annihilate it entirely requires only the aid of an honest and enlightened mind competent to pronounce upon the singular position of America; a

mind that shall lay before us exactly what she is, whom all acknowledge to be for her age a prodigy; a mind that will not employ its ingenuity in devising inapplicable comparisons, nor nauseate both the Old World and the New with the camomile of sneaking commendation, like a saucious Captain, who thinks our pulses require a heavy dose, to keep them below the fever throbs of Revolution.

American writers, deficient neither in observation nor experience, have assured their countrymen that the English people regard them with irreconcilable dislike.—In doing so, they may not be aware that they completely subserve the end for which the mercenaries employed by the spoilers of that very people, pursue their oblique vocation. They have mistaken the bubble of a pitiful eoterie for the voice of a high minded community—the squeak of a rat for the roar of a Lion."

*Cure for Consumption.* We give place to the following communication with much pleasure. Mr. E. White, the gentleman whose signature is attached to it, is well known to the community, and the utmost reliance can be placed upon any statement made by him. The discovery, if after being fairly tested, it shall be found efficacious in other instances, is truly a valuable one, and is well worthy of the attention of medical men.

N. Y. Com. Adv.

To the Editors of the Commercial Adv.

Seeing it stated in your paper a few weeks since, that inhaling the fumes of nitric acid had been found to cure the consumption, at my suggestion and request, a worthy and intelligent man who has been for two years past in my employ, has, within the last eight days, given it a trial. As no directions accompanied your notice, the following course was adopted:—Under a handkerchief, one end of which rested on the head, the other left to fall down over the breast, he held a glass tumbler, having in it a teaspoonful of the acid; and breathing the fumes thus prevented by the handkerchief from escaping, about half an hour at a time, three times per day. The effect has been to relieve him entirely from an obstinate cough of many years standing, and which, for the last two months, had been accompanied with all the symptoms of a confirmed and rapid consumption; all which have, according to *present appearances*, disappeared with the cough.

How permanent this relief may prove, time must show. That others, laboring under the like affection, may be put in early possession of the above facts, and with a hope that relief may be found therefrom, this communication is made by request of the person above referred to.

Yours E. WHITE.

N. B. The gas can only be breathed at the mouth—and to prevent the eyes being affected by it, keep them closed.

"I'll be Drummer now."—Passing along one of the by streets a few days since, we saw two chubby-cheeked, curly headed little urchins formed in martial array, one with a paper cap and the other tied to a small toy drum. The drummer appeared to enjoy the most honorable post of the two, for the accoutré lad frequently exclaimed—"you may be captain—I'll be drummer now." Our readers may say, "well, there's nothing strange in this; nor is there, yet it gave rise to a fund of reflection. These little fellows, in aping the manners of their elders, had but one object in view—the gratification of their pride. The paper cap, to be sure, had its attractions—yet, to be a drummer was certainly to be making a noise in the world. In after life they will find themselves among the thousands who wish to be drummer. The politician as he mounts the rostrum and thunders forth words of fire, but says to the multitude "I'll be drummer now." The party men as they crowd round those who have lucrative offices within their gift, but cry out "I'll be drummer now!"—the bachelor who has been for years a slave to the smiles and wiles of the fair, as he leads a timid bride to the altar, whispers to himself, "I'll be drummer now"—yea, every trade, calling or profession will have its drummer as well as its trumpeter; even we—humble and upreaching as we are, could not help exclaiming when we seized our pen to write this article—"we'll be drummer now."

Virtue is the brightest ornament of youth. As on the one hand, religion never appears more lovely and engaging, than when it dwells on the lips, and is exhibited in the lives of the young people, so on the other hand, young persons never appear so amiable, and deserve so much esteem and confidence, as when they are religious; when they walk in the paths of virtue, honesty, sobriety and integrity. Always interesting in itself, youth is rendered doubly so, when associated with the graces and tempers of the gospel. A young man or a young woman, destitute of religion, may be very estimable and worthy on account of the amiableness of their dispositions, and the propriety of their deportment. But where the spirit and graces of Christianity are added, it is like adding life and motion to a statue, which we have admired for its proportion and decorations. But a young person of elegant form, and engaging manners, who lives in profligacy, impurity, and blasphemy, deserves to be compared to a finished statue, streaming forth corruption, and poisoning the atmosphere with contagion and death.

*PRINTING.* All kinds executed with neatness at this Office.

## SHERIFF'S SALE.

## KENNEBEC SS.

TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public Vendue to the highest bidder at E. McLellan's Inn in Gardiner, on Saturday the 18th day of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. all the right in equity which Joseph Mc Caulsand has to redeem the following described real estate situated in Gardiner, being Lots of land on the Mc Caulsand road, so called, being Lots No. 168, and 169, North of the Cobbees Contee river, as delineated on a plan of survey made by Solomon Adams, Esq. dated December 30, 1808.

JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, May 17, 1831.

## SHERIFF'S SALE.

## KENNEBEC SS.

TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public Vendue to the highest bidder at E. McLellan's Inn in Gardiner, on Saturday the eighteenth day of June next, at 11 o'clock, A. M. all the right in equity which John Palmer has to redeem the following described real estate situated in Gardiner, South of the Cobbees Contee river Lot No. 1, eight, fronting on D. Street and measuring 4 rods with the buildings thereon. JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, May 17, 1831.

## NOTICE.

## KENNEBEC SS.

TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public Auction at the Gardiner Hotel, kept by Thomas Stevens, in Gardiner, on Saturday the twenty-fifth day of June next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, all the right in Equity which Thomas Gilpatrick has of redeeming the following described parcel of land situated in Gardiner aforesaid, viz.—Three lots of land marked and Numbered E. 4, E. 5, and E. 6, and the West half of E. 7, North of the Cobbees Contee river as delineated on a plan of survey made by Solomon Adams, Esq. dated December 30, 1808, to which reference may be had for a more particular description being the same now occupied by said Thomas Gilpatrick and Thomas Gilpatrick, Jr. the same being under Mortgage.

JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, May 21, 1831.

## NOTICE.

## KENNEBEC SS.

TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public Auction at the Gardiner Hotel, kept by Thomas Stevens, in Gardiner, on Saturday the twenty-fifth day of June next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, all the right in Equity which Thomas Gilpatrick has of redeeming the following described parcel of land situated in Gardiner aforesaid, viz.—Three lots of land marked and Numbered E. 4, E. 5, and E. 6, and the West half of E. 7, North of the Cobbees Contee river as delineated on a plan of survey made by Solomon Adams, Esq. dated December 30, 1808, to which reference may be had for a more particular description being the same now occupied by said Thomas Gilpatrick and Thomas Gilpatrick, Jr. the same being under Mortgage.

JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, April 27, 1831.

## NOTICE.

## KENNEBEC SS.

TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public Auction at the Gardiner Hotel, kept by Thomas Stevens, in Gardiner, on Saturday the twenty-fifth day of June next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, all the right in Equity which Thomas Gilpatrick has of redeeming the following described parcel of land situated in Gardiner aforesaid, viz.—Three lots of land marked and Numbered E. 4, E. 5, and E. 6, and the West half of E. 7, North of the Cobbees Contee river as delineated on a plan of survey made by Solomon Adams, Esq. dated December 30, 1808, to which reference may be had for a more particular description being the same now occupied by said Thomas Gilpatrick and Thomas Gilpatrick, Jr. the same being under Mortgage.

JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, May 19, 1831.

## NOTICE.

## KENNEBEC SS.

TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public Auction at the Gardiner Hotel, kept by Thomas Stevens, in Gardiner, on Saturday the twenty-fifth day of June next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, all the right in Equity which Thomas Gilpatrick has of redeeming the following described parcel of land situated in Gardiner aforesaid, viz.—Three lots of land marked and Numbered E. 4, E. 5, and E. 6, and the West half of E. 7, North of the Cobbees Contee river as delineated on a plan of survey made by Solomon Adams, Esq. dated December 30, 1808, to which reference may be had for a more particular description being the same now occupied by said Thomas Gilpatrick and Thomas Gilpatrick, Jr. the same being under Mortgage.

JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, April 27, 1831.

## NOTICE.

## KENNEBEC SS.

TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public Auction at the Gardiner Hotel, kept by Thomas Stevens, in Gardiner, on Saturday the twenty-fifth day of June next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, all the right in Equity which Thomas Gilpatrick has of redeeming the following described parcel of land situated in Gardiner aforesaid, viz.—Three lots of land marked and Numbered E. 4, E. 5, and E. 6, and the West half of E. 7, North of the Cobbees Contee river as delineated on a plan of survey made by Solomon Adams, Esq. dated December 30, 1808, to which reference may be had for a more particular description being the same now occupied by said Thomas Gilpatrick and Thomas Gilpatrick, Jr. the same being under Mortgage.

JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, April 27, 1831.

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JESSE GOULD, Deputy Sheriff.

Gardiner, April 27, 1831.

## NOTICE.

## KENNEBEC SS.